

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK



Economics Editor
Dennis A. Shields
(202) 694-5331
dshields@ers.usda.gov

Associate Editor
Judith E. Sommer
(202) 694-5322

Managing Editor
Mary Reardon
(202) 694-5136

Lindsay Mann
(202) 694-5127

Art Director
Cynthia Ray

Statistics Coordinator
David Johnson
(202) 694-5324

2 Briefs

Livestock: Decline in Cattle Inventory to Continue

Food Marketing: Food Price Inflation to Remain Low in 2000 & 2001

5 Commodity Spotlight

Corn Production & Use to Hit Record Highs

Allen Baker & Edward Allen

8 World Ag & Trade

U.S. Ag Exports to Edge Higher in Fiscal 2001

Carol Whitton

10 Policy

*U.S. Farm Program Benefits: Links to Planting Decisions
& Agricultural Markets*

Paul C. Westcott & C. Edwin Young

How Important Are Farm Payments to the Rural Economy?

Fred Gale

Current Tax Policy vs. a Flat Tax: Effects on U.S. Agriculture

Pat Canning & Marinos Tsigas

20 Special Article

Taiwan's Hog Industry—3 Years After Disease Outbreak

Sophia Huang

Statistical Indicators

- 24 Summary
- 25 U.S. & Foreign Economic Data
- 27 Farm Prices
- 29 Producer & Consumer Prices
- 31 Farm-Retail Price Spreads
- 33 Livestock & Products
- 37 Crops & Products

- 41 World Agriculture
- 42 U.S. Agricultural Trade
- 45 Farm Income
- 50 Food Expenditures
- 50 Transportation
- 51 Indicators of Farm Productivity
- 52 Food Supply & Use

Published 10 times per year by the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Materials may be reprinted without permission. Current and back issues available at www.ers.usda.gov/epubs/pdf/agout/ao.htm.

Contents have been approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board and the summary released September 20, 2000. Price and quantity forecasts are based on the September 12, 2000 *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*.

Subscriptions: \$65 per year (\$130 to foreign addresses, including Canada). Order from ERS-NASS, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 22161. Or call 1-800-999-6779 or 1-703-605-6220. Checks payable to ERS-NASS. For free e-mail subscription (text only): At website www.ers.usda.gov, click on "Periodicals" then "E-mail subscriptions."

The next issue (AGO-276) is scheduled for mailing on November 3, 2000. If not delivered by November 24, call (202) 694-5136 (please have mailing label handy). The full text will also be distributed electronically; call (202) 694-5050.

Cover photo: Larry Lefever, Grant Heilman Photography